

customers in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In addition, the project would provide leased capacity of 80,000 decatherms per day of natural gas for Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation.

Joint State and Federal Review

On September 14, 2001, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Certificate on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for these projects. The Secretary determined that the DEIR, prepared pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), "adequately and properly complies with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and with its implementing regulations." (Citations omitted). It also indicated that:

As discussed below, I am satisfied that the proponent has presented enough information on alternatives and impacts to demonstrate that the preferred alternative is feasible and less environmentally damaging than other alternatives. The project can advance to the Final EIR stage. However, there are several important issues that must be addressed in the Final EIR, including analysis of local routing alternatives, analysis of construction alternatives, and more information of the impacts and mitigation associated with the preferred alternative.

To accomplish the goal of addressing the requirements of both the state and the Federal government in a single document, the Applicants intend to file the FEIS with the MEPA office along with supplemental materials (Supplement) that will respond to specific issues identified in the state Certificate that may not have been identified or specifically addressed in the FEIS. The Supplement will include an appendix containing comments received since the DEIR with indexed and narrative responses by the Applicants. The Supplement and the FEIS are collectively intended to comprise the Final EIR for purposes of review under MEPA.

FERC Process

The FEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the FEIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals who have requested the FEIS; newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability of an FEIS. However, the CEQ regulations provide an exception to this rule when an agency decision is subject to a formal internal appeal process that allows other agencies or the public to make their views known. In such cases, the agency decision may be made at the same time the notice of the FEIS is published, allowing both periods to run concurrently. The Commission decision for this proposed action is subject to a 30-day rehearing period.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC internet website (www.ferc.gov) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC internet web site, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Post-Certificate Environmental Compliance and Environmental Report Preparation Training Seminars

November 15, 2001.

The Office of Energy Projects (OEP) staff will conduct the first of five sessions of its Post-Certificate Environmental Compliance Seminar on December 12 and 13, 2001 and the remaining four, as well as five sessions of the Environmental Report Preparation Seminar, throughout 2002. Last offered in 1998, these seminars have been updated to reflect recent regulatory changes and to open for discussion

state-of-the-industry advances in compliance management techniques. The format of both seminars has also been revised to include interactive training techniques and increased audience participation. The training seminars will be delivered by FERC staff and consultants with significant industry experience.

Details on the content of both seminars and the scheduled training locations are provided below. For more information for the courses visit the FERC website at http://www.ferc.gov/industry_seminars_home.htm and to register for the courses, visit the web site for these training sessions at www.ferc-envtraining.com or call (650) 712-6610. Registration for each course will be limited; so, although there is no charge for the course, all participants must register in advance.

Post-Certificate Environmental Compliance (2-Day Seminar)

This two-day seminar will cover the FERC's post-certificate regulatory process and construction and restoration requirements. The seminar will provide each trainee with knowledge of the basic environmental requirements of most FERC certificates and will address the following compliance topics:

- Preconstruction planning
- Post-certificate filings, including cultural resources requirements, implementation plan, threaten and endangered species
- Waterbody crossings
- Wetland construction
- Erosion control
- Residential construction
- Agricultural mitigation
- Variance procedures
- Right-of-way restoration and post-construction activities

Before each morning of the seminar, we will also offer an "early-bird" session on Pipeline Construction (Day 1) and Effective Communications (Day 2) for those participants who felt they would benefit. Participants must register for these early-bird sessions when registering for the seminar. The Pipeline Construction session will be for those who are inexperienced in basic pipeline construction practices. The Effective Communications session will discuss how the Environmental Inspector and project representatives may best keep themselves, agencies, and construction contractors informed of the status of the project and various regulatory requirements to avoid misunderstandings to the extent possible.

At the training seminar, we will present updates that are under

consideration for the Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan (Plan) and the Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures (Procedures). Seminar participants will have the opportunity to provide input and comment on the proposed updates. We will also issue separate notice of these potential changes for the general public and the regulated industry to comment on outside of the training venue.

Registered participants will receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the session and an updated copy of the Natural Gas Pipeline Environmental Compliance Workbook.

The December, 2001, Post-Certificate Environmental Compliance Seminar will be held in Houston, Texas at the Sheraton North, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Participants must register for this course by December 1. Additional courses will be held as shown on the attached table. More information on these future courses will be posted on the website in January 2002.

Environmental Report Preparation

This seminar will discuss the environmental documentation required for certificate applications prepared under subpart A of 18 CFR 157 and sections 7(a), 7(b), and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), subpart F blanket projects, and section 2.55 replacements. The seminar will assist each trainee in preparing the environmental report required for filing with FERC applications for project construction or abandonment. The presentation will address the information necessary to meet the FERC's minimum filing requirements and will cover the following topics:

- General Project Description
- Water Use and Quality
- Fish, Wildlife, and Vegetation
- Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
- Geological Resources
- Soils
- Land Use, Recreation and Aesthetics
- Air and Noise Quality

- Alternatives
- Reliability and Safety
- PCB Contamination
- Information Related to LNG Facilities
- Landowner Notification

The seminar will also include a discussion of the FERC's efforts to enhance stakeholder involvement during the pre-filing process which potentially includes beginning the National Environmental Policy Act process during the development stage of a project. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the session and an updated copy of the Guidance Manual for Environmental Report Preparation.

The Environmental Report Preparation Seminars will be held as shown on the attached table. More information on these future courses will be posted on the website in January 2002.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

SCHEDULE OF TRAINING SEMINARS
(FY 2001–2002)

Dates	Location	Seminar
December 12–13	Houston	Compliance.
March	Las Vegas	Compliance.
April	Atlanta	Compliance ER Preparation.
May	Hartford	Compliance ER Preparation.
June	Salt Lake	ER Preparation.
August	Houston	ER Preparation.
September	St. Louis	Compliance; ER Preparation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS–42212E; FRL–6812–9]

Endocrine Disruptor Methods Validation Subcommittee under the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As mandated by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, EPA is implementing an Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP). As part of the implementation of EDSP, the Endocrine Disruptor

Methods Validation Subcommittee (EDMVS) under the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, a Federal Advisory Committee NACEPT, has been established. There will be a 3–day meeting of the EDMVS. EDMVS will provide technical advice on the Tier 1 screening and Tier 2 testing methods for its EDSP. The meeting is open to the public. Seating is on a first-come basis. Individuals requiring special accommodations at this meeting, including wheelchair access, should contact Jane Smith at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least 5 business days prior to the meeting, so appropriate arrangements can be made.

DATES: The 3–day meeting will be held on December 10, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., December 11, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and December 12, 2001, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Requests to participate in the meeting must be received on or before December 6, 2001. The public comment period will be late on the afternoon of December 10, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at RESOLVE 1255 23rd St., NW., Suite 275, Washington, DC. The telephone number at RESOLVE is (202) 944–2300.

Requests to participate may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I. listed under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, your request must identify docket control number OPPTS–42212E in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Smith, Designated Federal Official, Office of Science Coordination and Policy (7203M), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460;